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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General*

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* The footnote requested by the General Assembly in resolution 54/248 was not included in the submission.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 54/96 D of 8 December 1999, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures for the implementation of that resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. It provides a review of the current situation in Somalia, a summary of humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners from August 1999 to July 2000, and an indication of priority areas of assistance for the coming months.

II. The socio-economic situation

2. Two countervailing forces characterize the Somali context today. On the one hand, remarkable commitment is shown to re-establishing the rule of law and promoting responsible public administration. This is evident in the proceedings of the Somalia National Peace Conference, as well as the leadership shown by civil society groups in attempting to establish an inclusive alternative to the country's faction-ridden past. On the other hand, although the political authority of many faction leaders appears to be waning, there remains a lack of order and a potential for renewed violence in many areas, particularly in central and southern Somalia.

A. Political and security issues

3. Following a series of consultative discussions at the Somalia National Peace Conference in Arta, Djibouti, Abdikasim Salad Hassan was elected as Somalia's President with a 245-member Transitional National Assembly. Representation at Arta included some 800 participants structured along the lines of Somalia's clan families. Delegates, including traditional elders and women, met to discuss the major issues relating to the Somali conflict and the possibilities for further reconciliation. The Conference was extensively covered by the international and regional media.

4. While the Conference was successful in assembling representatives from all over Somalia, some groupings remain outside the process. These include the Somaliland administration led by "President" Egal, the Puntland administration led by "President" Yusuf, and some faction leaders, such as Hussein Aideed, Musa Sudi, Qanyare and Osman Ato.

5. The conference met in plenary session and debated some of the key issues, including arms control and the disarmament of the militias, the issue of looted property and the status of Mogadishu. The Conference adopted an interim charter on 16 July. One of the primary aims of the Conference is the formation of a transitional government for Somalia.

6. Despite these potentially momentous changes, providing aid to Somalia for the moment is complicated by the country's unstable security situation. In the last 12 months, seven aid workers from the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been killed. In the last six months, 10 NGOs have withdrawn or been forced to evacuate from the country. Large areas of Somalia are currently off-limits to aid agencies owing to insecurity.

7. There has been only one major development in Somalia's internal political and security context over the past year. In June 1999, the Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA) ejected militia loyal to Hussein Aideed's United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance faction from Baidoa. This resulted in large clashes along the Baidoa-Mogadishu road for the remainder of 1999 until the front-line stabilized between Burhakaba and Baliadogle. Since then, RRA has consolidated control over both Bay and Bakol regions, and has indicated its intention to establish a civilian administration for these areas.

8. In the north, the "Somaliland" and "Puntland" administrations have provided stable and secure environments in which the aid agencies have been able to provide longer-term assistance. Particular headway has been made by the administrations in establishing law and order, financial stability and an environment conducive to private sector activity. The international community has supported these efforts in areas such as capacity-building, demining, governance and law-and-order.

B. Economic issues

9. Given the emergence of a dynamic informal economy, many urban areas have become vibrant hubs of investment. Numerous radio and television outlets have been established over the last six months. For

instance, in Mogadishu, two television stations have been established and FM radio stations (including the British Broadcasting Corporation) have gone on-air. Furthermore, a host of local and international businesses have opened, including pasta factories, boat yards and telecommunications companies.

10. Macroeconomic trends have stabilized across Somalia. Given the relatively small amounts of currency injected into the economy over the past three months, consumer prices remain stable and inflation is close to zero. Other factors remaining equal, this indicates no substantial deterioration in household purchasing power and consumption capacity.

11. This is a positive development given the fluctuation of currency values and exchange rates over the past year. In Mogadishu and most of southern Somalia, the exchange rate began rising after large amounts of currency were injected from May to July 1999. In the following months, the foreign exchange market readjusted itself and began to stabilize in November at the current rate of 10,500-10,700 Somali shillings, representing a depreciation of nearly 30 per cent.

12. An estimated equivalent in Somali shillings of US$ 2.9 million has recently been printed and shipped to north-east Somalia. The new money is not expected to have an inflationary impact provided that the injection into the market is managed conservatively. It is positive to note that, in 1999, the "Puntland" administration received a modest consignment of Somali shilling reprints and successfully avoided inflationary influence on the local economy by injecting small amounts over time.

C. Humanitarian issues

13. Conditions improved across Somalia towards the end of 1999, when near-normal *deyr* season rainfall led to bumper harvests, good water access and pasture regrowth in most regions with the exception of Bakol. However, for the first four months of 2000, a long, dry *jilaal* season resulted in drought conditions across the country. During this time, Gedo, Bakol and northern Hiran regions were considered the worst-affected areas of southern Somalia.

14. Drought-affected populations in northern Gedo, Bay and Bakol moved in a number of different directions: towards riverine areas in Gedo, north into Ethiopia, south toward Baidoa and Mogadishu, and as far north-east as Bossaso and Las Anod. Factors affecting population movements include access to land for cultivation, opportunities for employment and the sale of bush products, as well as food distributions. In April, people started returning to their areas of origin in expectation of rain and planting.

15. Three weeks of heavy rainfall from the end of April through the second week of May have led to good crop establishment, improved access to water and pasture regeneration in most areas. However, there has been little to no rainfall since the second *dekad* of May. Without further rains, drought conditions may again prevail. In this case, crop development would falter and poor *gu* harvest yields would be likely.

16. Already, 750,000 people across Somalia are highly vulnerable following three consecutive years of below-normal rainfall and dwindling household resource bases. The cycle of environmental degradation and rain failure has resulted in dwindling pasture reserves and limited livestock production. In turn, this has led to the silting of rivers, already flood-prone owing to lack of coherent river embankment protection. Consistently high malnutrition rates indicate that the areas of most concern include northern Gedo, northern Hiran and parts of Bay and Bakol regions. The situation in Gedo is the most alarming, as river water levels are falling fast, the potential for irrigated farming may be reduced.

17. Since January, cholera outbreaks have been confirmed in Mogadishu, and subsequently in Lower Shabelle, Gedo, Lower and Middle Juba, and Say regions. The pattern of this year's epidemic has been very different from previous years, when cholera hit large numbers of victims in a small number of areas. This year, small to medium-sized outbreaks are being reported in locations all across southern Somalia. Following the heavy *gu* rains, cholera morbidity has decreased across the country and some cholera treatment centres have been closed. The epidemic appears to have peaked during the week of 15 to 21 April, when 1,022 cases and 145 deaths were recorded. Fatality rates have been high, particularly in areas that lack an international aid presence.

18. Under "normal" conditions, it is estimated that only 30 per cent of the population has access to safe potable water, although the current rains will ease the immediate severity of this problem. Harvested

rainwater contributes some 60 per cent of total drinking water, with river water and boreholes accounting for 25 and 15 per cent, respectively. Recent rainfall and higher river levels means access to water in most regions has increased. However, in drought-affected areas, such as Northern Gedo and Bakol, boreholes will remain an important source of water. At the moment, it is estimated that only 35 per cent of Somalia's boreholes are functioning owing to lack of maintenance, poor construction or conflict-related destruction.

19. Given the spread of drought, the fate of Somali communities spread across national borders in the Horn of Africa is a matter of concern. Successive rain failures have caused drought-related emergency conditions in northern Kenya and Ethiopia as well as Somalia itself. This has resulted in increasingly extreme rates of food insecurity, malnutrition and livestock death. The resulting decline in commercial trade has further depressed household incomes. Finally, although peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea now seems at hand, this conflict has had a significant impact on stability and security in Somalia owing to the resulting changes in regional trade and the continuing proliferation of arms in the region.

20. The conclusion for United Nations agencies is that, whatever political changes may occur over the next six months, Somalia will remain a disaster-prone country with a significant proportion of the population remaining structurally vulnerable to the vicissitudes of conflict and nature.

III. United Nations assistance to Somalia

21. For the past year, United Nations agencies, in conjunction with non-governmental, donor and Somali partners in the Somalia Aid Coordination Body (SACB), have adopted a four-part humanitarian strategy. The pillars of this strategy are (a) to gain access to vulnerable populations; (b) to secure a safe operating environment; (c) to provide assistance and protection; and (d) to improve coordination, security and support services.

22. Given the persistent economic insecurity of an estimated 750,000 people, as well as the ongoing factional violence and attacks on civilian populations and international aid agencies, each element of this core strategy remains an essential priority of United Nations field activity today.

23. With only limited funding provided by Member States and a small number of non-governmental agencies available as implementing partners, the United Nations is required to adopt a flexible but structured approach to emergency prevention, preparedness and response in Somalia.

24. Given continuing insecurity and funding problems, the number of aid agencies present in Somalia has decreased dramatically since the departure of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) in 1995. Until recently, most agencies based their staff with policy and decision-making responsibilities in Nairobi. At times, this has prevented adequate, coordinated responses to emergencies. Furthermore, it has reduced the capacity of the aid community to assess the causes of vulnerability, particularly malnutrition rates, and to design strategic interventions.

25. In response, United Nations agencies are now moving more coordination, decision-making and security responsibilities to the field as part of plans for "progressive engagement" with Somali communities, in line with the United Nations Principles of Engagement agreed upon by all United Nations agencies in November 1999.

26. The strengthened field presence will enable agencies to monitor the evolving humanitarian situation more closely, gain greater access to vulnerable populations and prevent future security incidents by strengthening inter-agency communication and community liaison. It will also allow for better programme monitoring and targeting of limited aid resources to priority areas and populations. At the same time, a humanitarian principles programme will be adopted to guide relations with de facto authorities so as to reduce opportunities for the manipulation of international assistance and encourage respect for international law and standards of good governance.

27. Finding new ways of alleviating the harsh conditions in southern Somalia, particularly northern Gedo and Bakol, remains an immediate priority. High malnutrition rates are not simply caused by lack of food. Other factors, particularly sanitary conditions, access to water and the availability of medical care, influence the health and nutritional status of vulnerable populations. The World Food Programme (WFP), the

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are enhancing their field presence to expand assessment capacity and to coordinate interventions to address the current dynamics of multiple needs.

A. Food security

28. Emergency food assistance has been strategic in saving lives and protecting assets among vulnerable households. From January to May 2000, WFP distributed a total of 5,719 metric tons of food aid to Somalia. Of this, 68 per cent went towards relief operations, 20 per cent towards food-for-work activities and 12 per cent towards social support. Of the total food delivered, 3,214 metric tons was distributed through emergency interventions in Bay, Bakol and Gedo regions, whilst 640 metric tons was distributed to drought-affected pastoralists in the Haud area of Somaliland. A further 1,315 metric tons was distributed through food-for-work activities in Hiran and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, and through supplementary feeding programmes in Mogadishu.

29. Given current pledges, WFP faces a shortfall of 7,000 metric tons through the end of 2000. Should the upcoming *gu* harvest be a poor one or fail altogether, a much greater shortfall would be envisaged.

30. Food-for-work projects have contributed to protecting livelihoods and fostering self-help initiatives. These programmes promote grass-roots initiatives for the rehabilitation of productive assets while simultaneously providing employment. Additionally, they support poverty alleviation and strengthen communities' capacities to stimulate rural rehabilitation. Food-for-work in Bay and Bakol regions has been instrumental in developing and rehabilitating irrigation canals, water catchments, wells, shelters, roads and kitchen gardens.

31. Coordination remains a strong component of food sector programming. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) administers the Food Security Assessment Unit for Somalia, which monitors food insecurity, provides early warning of emergency needs and prioritizes intervention strategies for United Nations agencies, NGOs and donor counterparts. The Unit is supported by regular WFP assessments, including the identification of vulnerable caseloads and the impact of distributions. FAO and WFP are leading members of the Somalia Aid Coordination Body (SACB) Food Security and Rural Development Unit.

32. To prevent future food emergencies and rehabilitate livelihoods, FAO provides seeds and tools to increase crop production of vulnerable farming households in the rain-fed and irrigated areas. Home gardening support, with nutritional education, is provided to increase vegetable production for domestic consumption and local marketing. River embankment and canal rehabilitation is now undertaken to increase the available area for irrigated production and prevent flooding.

33. Through the SACB Seed Working Group, FAO coordinated the distribution of 900 metric tons of sorghum seed to the rain-fed areas. FAO is funding the rehabilitation of 30 sluice gates and irrigation canals to protect 20,000 hectares of agricultural land. Local canal committees have been trained, and Somali-language guidelines to ensure sustainable maintenance of the gates and irrigation canals have been distributed. A total of 15,000 vegetable kits and 30,000 hoes were provided in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower Juba regions. Beneficiaries were trained in vegetable production and nutrition, and training manuals distributed to beneficiaries were translated into the Somali language.

B. Health and nutrition

34. Diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory infections and malaria account for more than half of all child deaths in Somalia. The country's maternal mortality rate is amongst the highest in the world. With immunization coverage levels at about 30 per cent, measles outbreaks continue to result in many deaths. Somalia remains amongst the countries with the highest incidence of tuberculosis (TB), and cholera is endemic in most areas. Nine nutritional surveys conducted in southern Somalia, particularly in Gedo and Bakol regions, over the past year have reported global malnutrition rates over 20 per cent.

35. UNICEF, which has acted as Chair of the SACB Health Sector Committee and Nutrition Working Group, has taken a lead role in responding to the emergency situation in Somalia with integrated interventions in nutrition, health, water, sanitation and education. UNICEF operates from seven offices in

Somalia (Kismayo, Mogadishu, Baidoa, Berbera, Jowhar, Hargeisa and Bosasso). During the first half of the year, UNICEF supplied essential drugs and medical supplies to 131 maternal-child health centres, 441 health posts and 17 hospitals across the country, and trained medical staff to reinforce clinical care and health management capacities. Over 500 metric tons of supplementary feeding supplies have been distributed to some 50,000 malnourished children since January. The cholera treatment centre at Baidoa hospital was rehabilitated, while other centres in Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle were provided with supplies. In this same period, UNICEF immunized over 62,000 children below five years of age against measles and other diseases. In cooperation with WHO and other partners, UNICEF has immunized over 1 million children, including 400,000 in Mogadishu, against polio since late 1999. Additional polio vaccination campaigns are planned for September, October and November 2000.

36. Nine comprehensive nutritional surveys undertaken over the past year have demonstrated that malnutrition rates have not declined significantly even though a number of successful food distributions have been carried out, particularly in areas poorly served by non-food aid interventions. It is unlikely that vulnerability levels will decrease until programmes designed to meet such non-food needs are effectively implemented. However, extending such services is hindered by lack of funds.

37. WHO undertakes interventions to control the spread of diseases, increase preparedness and respond to disease outbreaks, extend immunization services, improve the quality of reproductive health care and train health practitioners. WHO chairs the SACB Cholera Task Force and supplies ringer lactate to cholera treatment centres during outbreak periods. Anti-polio campaigns were conducted in Lower Shabelle and Mogadishu in collaboration with UNICEF. Laboratory services have been strengthened and all blood banks have been provided with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) kits for donor screening. Malaria control programmes have been organized in north-west Somalia and some southern regions.

38. Coordination of the health information and outbreak surveillance systems has become a cornerstone of emergency preparedness and response. WHO launched both these systems in the first half of 2000 and now receives weekly reporting from 15 sentinel sites in the southern, central and north-eastern regions. WHO is the lead agency in providing technical support and drugs supply for TB control. Functioning in 11 of Somalia's 18 regions, TB treatment programmes have achieved 56 per cent, directly observed short-course treatment strategy (DOTS) coverage and cure rates over 88 per cent. Over 100 TB health staff members have been trained and a TB newsletter has been distributed to promote education.

39. In June 1999, WFP began supporting the tuberculosis treatment programmes in partnership with WHO, international NGOs and the Ministry of Health in north-west Somalia. As TB is a calorie-consuming disease and most TB patients come from poor homes, providing TB patients and their families with food rations is a strategic component of the TB treatment programme. The provision of family rations to TB patients has reportedly resulted in significant weight gains and contributed to a more rapid recovery as well as providing an incentive for programme enrolment. As of May 2000, WFP had committed 790 metric tons of food commodities to the TB programme and distributed, through its partners, 650 metric tons to about 10,000 TB patients and their families.

40. Additional health support is provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The agency has completed training in reproductive health, safe motherhood and family planning this year. Provision of essential drugs and equipment, the other major elements of UNFPA programming, are ongoing.

C. Water and sanitation

41. Groundwater constitutes the principal source of potable water in most areas of Somalia. Field surveys show that the quantity of groundwater is sufficient to cover the domestic needs of all of Somalia. However, there is insufficient infrastructure to ensure that safe, clean water is available to those who need it most. It is estimated that only 30 per cent of the population have access to safe water sources and hygienic sanitation facilities.

42. UNICEF has provided access to clean water for approximately 171,000 people over the course of the year by rehabilitating the main water supply system of the town of Baidoa (serving 21,000), repairing 12 boreholes (serving 121,000) and 35 hand-dug wells (serving 29,000) in the Bay and Bakol regions,

constructing latrines in primary schools (serving 1,000 students) and working with over 130 water and sanitation committees across the country to carry out sanitation and hygiene control.

43. WHO works to ensure provision of safe water supplies to the population in north-west Somalia by providing local authorities in Hargeisa and Berbera with chlorination systems. In addition, WHO has trained sanitation staff in these areas and supports a sanitary engineer at its Hargeisa sub-office to coordinate and monitor its activities.

D. Education

44. Post-war rehabilitation can only be sustainable if Somalia's youth and children are afforded access to schooling. On average, only 1 in 10 children of primary school age is enrolled. The rate of education declines even further for children aged 14-18 years. This year, United Nations agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders have continued to promote sustainable access to quality basic education, focusing on reducing drop-out rates and gender disparities.

45. During the year 2000, UNICEF has rehabilitated over 50 schools, mostly in central and southern Somalia, thereby ensuring primary education for over 10,000 children who previously did not have access to education. The School Improvement Programme, which aims at improving the physical quality of the learning environment, has been implemented in about 100 schools and is expected to cover another 200 schools by the end of the year. UNICEF is also supporting the development of new primary curriculum syllabuses and textbooks for six subjects. These have now been completed and are in the final stages of production.

46. UNICEF developed information management tools for use by all schools to generate standardized data. In addition, kits containing basic school supplies and student supplies are being distributed to some 1,000 schools, and teachers are being trained to use these supplies. Pedagogical and managerial training has also been provided to 80 school supervisors and over 1,000 teachers. The final draft education policy for Somaliland was developed with UNICEF support, and a similar process has started in Puntland. Under the UNICEF youth education and development programme, several youth groups have been formed and supported across Somalia. The development of a non-formal education package for numeracy, literacy and life skills education has also been initiated.

47. While the United Nations-led process of developing new textbooks continued, UNESCO reprinted and distributed textbooks to schools to meet immediate needs. Assistance was also provided to conduct examinations. The capacity of communities and local education authorities has been enhanced, and limited rehabilitation of schools has taken place. Root causes of conflict were addressed through civic education, radio broadcasts, print media and a country-wide network of peace resource centres and community groups.

48. Despite a lack of donor response, peace education went ahead thanks to the contributions of UNESCO and its partners. Support for technical and vocational education was forthcoming and preparations are under way to launch new initiatives in the third quarter of 2000. Owing to lack of donor response, the number of functioning secondary schools has not increased despite demand and no major informal education initiatives could be launched.

E. Reintegration of returnees

49. Prevailing security conditions in many regions, particularly the north-east and north-west of Somalia, have prepared the way for the return of refugees and displaced populations. The objective of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was to repatriate and reintegrate about 80,000 Somali refugees from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen and other countries by the end of the year 2000. By the end of May 2000, only about 17,000 refugees from Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen had been assisted to return and reintegrate into their former communities. The low figure in the number of returnees is a reflection of the complexity of the Somali refugee situation, especially in eastern Ethiopia, the level of cooperation among partners and the continuing instability in most of Somalia.

50. United Nations agencies recognize the limited absorption capacity of many war-affected communities. While further returns will be facilitated, the agencies have provided displaced populations with material support and local authorities with urban planning support to increase the potential and durability of

reintegration. UNHCR has implemented reintegration projects in the key sectors including water, health, education, crop production, livestock, income generation and community services to provide basic facilities and services so as to stabilize the livelihoods of returning populations. The basic strategy adopted for this sector has remained the same, although the planned number of interventions has had to be scaled back. UNHCR is currently experiencing a serious global funding crisis and responses to its appeal have not been as good as anticipated. This has effectively resulted in a significant 20 per cent reduction in the number of interventions to be undertaken.

51. This year, UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) commenced a joint initiative aimed at a region-wide strategy of repatriating and resettling refugee populations throughout the Horn of Africa in collaboration with host administrations and NGO partners. Past experiences have shown that reintegration of returning refugees and displaced persons is most successful where all resident populations stand to gain equally from the interventions supporting repatriation. In this regard, the joint UNHCR-UNDP initiative will endeavour to minimize cross-border disparities between refugees, the displaced and host communities in Somalia and Ethiopia so as to stop "revolving-door" movements across the border.

52. UNDP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) have designed a programme to strengthen municipal institutional capacities for planning and operation of urban facilities and public services, including water supply and solid waste management. Working in five municipalities in 2000 (Hargeisa, Berbera, Borama, Burao and Sheikh), the project has developed inter-municipality collaborations and capacity-building.

F. Human rights and gender issues

53. The efficacy of emerging public authorities depends on their ability to recognize and meet the needs of their communities. In addition to capacity-building efforts discussed below, United Nations agencies support the sustainability of these administrations by encouraging respect for principles of good governance and human rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNDP have increased activities encouraging the rule of law through the training of judicial and law enforcement professionals and promoting Somali NGOs.

54. Human rights programming began in earnest in 2000 and OHCHR has provided funding for eight projects presented by Somali NGOs focusing on women's rights and the rights of the child. One project implemented by the Myles Center for Human Rights and Democracy aims to create a human rights nucleus in Kismayo. It provides 10 activists with an opportunity to be trained in monitoring, advocacy and computer literacy. With financial assistance from the United Nations Coordination Unit, OHCHR has been able to recruit an international consultant to supervise and ensure model implementation of its seven other projects (based in Somaliland and Puntland). Despite serious funding constraints, OHCHR is developing an innovative project on child soldiers in Mogadishu presented to it by the Dr. Ismail Juma'lle Centre.

55. The Somali conflict has increased women's vulnerability to various kinds of diseases and gender-based violence, including rape. The food insecurity that has resulted from the current drought has further increased women's workload and marginalization. In this regard, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) supports women's rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women, as well as capacity-building to assist women's organizations and women living in displaced communities. UNICEF is also working to promote the empowerment and economic security of women in Somalia. UNICEF activities in this sector include providing women's organizations with technical support and disseminating information related to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

G. Public administration

56. The UNDP Capacity-Building Facility (CBF) has implemented major programmes in both Somaliland and Puntland to train civil service staff in planning and aid coordination, public finance, banking and economic management, office systems and procedures and information management. A programme of reform of the civil service is being implemented. In a major breakthrough, CBF brokered an agreement between the Bank of Somaliland and an Ethiopian bank that is expected to lead to the issuance of letters of credit by

the former. CBF inputs will continue to be critical for consolidating the new administrations in Somalia. While UNDP is currently funding CBF, the project is under-financed and donor assistance is being sought.

57. The UNDP Somalia Rehabilitation Programme provides technical assistance in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of rehabilitation and development plans. The Programme has trained technical units to collect and analyse relevant data for macroeconomic assessment and planning. The project also provides small investment capital mainly for income and employment generation and rehabilitation of social infrastructure. Currently, 21 small-scale projects are under implementation in close collaboration with beneficiary communities.

58. The UNDP Civil Protection Programme focuses on mine action, demobilization and law enforcement. It has established the Somali Mine Action Centre and fully trained its staff in the coordination of mine action and clearance activities, including awareness, victim assistance, quality assurance and management of mine action information. In the area of law enforcement, activities have included basic training of police recruits, training in community policing and provision of basic equipment for law enforcement.

H. Economic development and infrastructure

59. The UNDP/International Civil Aviation Organization Civil Aviation Caretaker Authority for Somalia (CACAS) has focused on the management of the airspace, flight information services, aerodrome information services and rescue and firefighting at airports in Somalia. In the year 2000, CACAS continued operating an Aerocom substation at Hargeisa and opened another substation at Garowe. Several capacity-building activities geared towards improvements at airports and local civil aviation authorities were also implemented. However, there are still critical unmet needs, especially relating to the rehabilitation of airfields, for which funding is urgently sought.

60. The UNDP/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Ports and Trade project, executed by UNCTAD, provides assistance in capacity-building and rehabilitation of Somali seaports at Berbera and Bosasso. These are vital for trade and employment for Somalia, as well as the Horn of Africa region as a whole. Areas of training in 2000 have thus far included port operations, finance and accounting, vocational trades, trade promotion and trade information. The project also established vocational training in both the ports of Berbera and Bosasso.

I. Coordination and security

61. The United Nations Coordination Unit, jointly supported by UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has focused on encouraging an integrated approach to humanitarian analysis and response. Efforts are ongoing to increase cross-sectoral, area-based programme coordination and to shift situation analysis, aid planning and decision-making to the field. The Coordination Unit has formed a Humanitarian Analysis Group to provide regular cross-sectoral emergency updates and early warning. The Humanitarian Response Group prioritizes interventions and develops new operational strategies. The Unit is taking the lead role in developing humanitarian principles, minimum standards of operations and protection strategies. These are expected to improve relationships with local authorities, increase humanitarian access and protection and enhance the professionalism of aid delivery. In addition, the Unit with its partners undertakes joint assessments, multisectoral reporting and enhancing regional linkages.

62. In the last 12 months, seven aid workers from the United Nations and NGOs have been killed. In the last six months, 10 NGOs have withdrawn or been forced to evacuate from the country. Large areas of Somalia are currently off-limits to aid agencies owing to insecurity. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator is expanding support to United Nations agencies on the national and regional level, and improving the training and technical equipment allocation to staff in the field.

IV. Assistance provided by Member States

63. Accomplishing the tasks described above is only possible with adequate financial and material resources. To support its humanitarian, recovery and development activities, the United Nations has issued

two separate appeals in 2000. The first was the consolidated inter-agency appeal for 2000, followed by the emergency appeal for the drought in the Horn of Africa.

64. To date, only $19,054,190, or 37.5 per cent of the funding requested in the 2000 consolidated appeal, has been received. In response to the emergency appeal, issued in June 2000, $2,139,000 or 12 per cent has been forthcoming. Without further assistance, it will be impossible to extend the United Nations presence in Somalia and provide emergency assistance to populations in need. Additional information on funding, including contributions by specific donors, can be found on the web site *www.reliefweb.int*.

V. Concluding observations

65. Over the next six months, efforts to meet urgent humanitarian needs and support recovery will be affected by two factors. The first will be the reaction by parties in Somalia to the outcome of the Somalia National Peace Conference process. The second is the potential deterioration of livelihoods depending on the success or failure of the upcoming harvest.

66. In preparation for the possibility that crop failure or renewed conflict might stress fragile livelihoods and generate an acute humanitarian crisis in some regions, United Nations agencies have prepared three scenarios to prioritize and coordinate action.

67. Under the best-case scenario, the number of people requiring immediate relief assistance will decrease to 526,000 (from an estimated 1.2 million at risk) by the end of the year, a 30 per cent drop in the overall level of vulnerability. A best-case scenario would result from near normal *gu* and *deyr* rains, leading to increased water availability, good pasture conditions and near-normal crop production in rain-fed and irrigated farming areas. In this scenario, vulnerable populations will be concentrated in inland areas facing chronic food insecurity due to limited household resource bases following years of displacement and poor harvests.

68. According to the mid-case scenario, Somalia's vulnerable population will increase by 60 per cent to some 1.2 million persons. This would result from below-normal *gu* rains, followed by near-normal *deyr* rains, causing pockets of rain-fed crop failure, water shortage and dry pasture. In both inland and coastal areas, localized migrations to towns and water points are likely in this case.

69. The worst-case scenario for 2000 sets the vulnerable population at 1.5 million, a 100 per cent increase from the current figure, owing to the failure of both the *gu* and *deyr* rains, resulting in widespread crop failure in rain-fed areas and reduced production in irrigated areas. Lack of access to water and pasture would also be significant. As a result, livestock deaths would be expected and export levels would likely fall. Both inland and coastal regions would be severely affected and there would be exceptional migration and displacement.

70. United Nations agencies have prepared contingency plans to increase assistance levels depending on which scenario develops over the coming months. The areas described below have been deemed priorities for immediate action.

71. It is essential to reduce malnutrition in southern Somalia through further emergency response activities. Efforts are being made to improve access to vulnerable populations and enhance staff security by increasing the United Nations field presence. This will allow for closer monitoring of the condition and location of vulnerable groups while reducing the danger of future security incidents by increasing field coordination and community liaison.

72. Emergency prevention activities will also be enhanced based on regional monitoring and integrated responses across the Horn of Africa. In particular, through the summer, UNDP will assist in building the capacity of local administrations in emergency mitigation. Joint United Nations-NGO efforts will need to be supported for flood prevention in the south.

73. Essential educational services will be extended. Given the current enrolment ratios and lack of basic facilities, Somalia faces a perpetual cycle of disaster due to the low level of education in the country. United Nations agencies will continue to support teacher training, peace education initiatives, youth and adult informal education and provision of materials.

74. Subject to further political reconciliation, it is envisaged that the majority of Somali refugees will be repatriated from Ethiopia by the year 2001, as refugees from other areas such as Kenya will begin repatriation. United Nations agencies are preparing to help local authorities to reintegrate refugees and internally

displaced persons, as well as to meet the needs of host communities.

75. Finally, the United Nations is committed to enhancing governance capacity in areas of stability. Consistent with the policy of progressive engagement, joint planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes with local authorities will be increased.